

A new *Lerista* (Lacertilia: Scincidae) from the Pilbara

G.M. Storr*

In a revision of *Lerista frosti* and allies (Storr 1985: 311), I mentioned a specimen from coastal Pilbara too different to include in either *L. chalybura* or *L. flammicauda* from the hilly interior of that region. That specimen is now formally described.

Lerista concolor sp. nov.

Figure 1

Holotype

R70741 in Western Australian Museum, collected on 3 August 1980 by W.H. Butler on the Maitland River, 25 km SE Karratha HS, Western Australia, in 21°01'S, 116°48'E.

Diagnosis

A slender *Lerista* with 4 fingers, 4 toes and movable eyelids, distinguishable from *L. chalybura* and *L. flammicauda* by its smaller ear aperture (only slightly larger than nostril), shorter foreleg (50% of hindleg, v. 56-69%), patterned (rather than plain) back, weak (rather than strong) upper lateral stripe, and tail concolorous with back (rather than brightly coloured).

Description (of holotype, the only available specimen)

Snout-vent length 52 mm. Length of appendages (% of SVL): foreleg 10; hindleg 20.

Nasals narrowly separated. Prefrontals widely separated. Frontoparietals in long contact. Supraoculars 3, first two in contact with frontal. Supraciliaries 5, second and fifth smallest. Upper labials 6. Midbody scale rows 20. Lamellae under third toe 17, each with a fine weak keel.

Upper surfaces olive brown, back with four longitudinal series of short dark greyish brown dashes (outer pair extending only to base of tail). Dark greyish brown upper

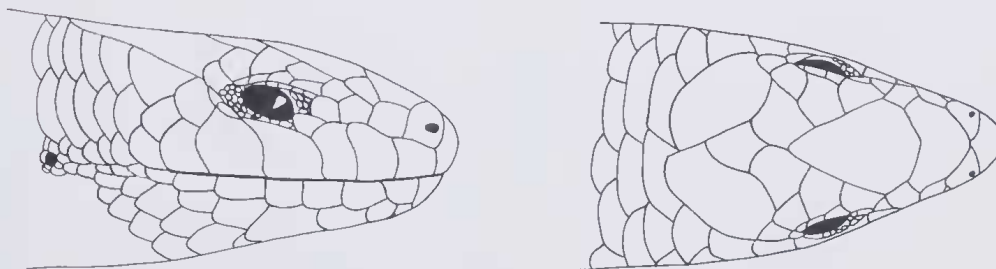


Figure 1. Head of holotype of *Lerista concolor*.

* C/o Western Australian Museum, Perth, Western Australia 6000.

lateral stripe half a scale wide, upper edge straight, lower edge irregular. Remaining lateral and under surfaces pale olive brown except for brown vertical bars on lips and greyish brown vermiculations on lateral and lower surfaces of tail.

Distribution

Only known from one locality on the north-west coastal plain of Western Australia (see map in Storr 1985: 309).

Derivation of name

Latin for similarly coloured, i.e. back and tail.

Reference

Storr, G.M. (1985). Revision of *Lerista frosti* and allied species (Lacertilia: Scincidae). *Rec. West. Aust. Mus.* **12**: 307-316.